

Traditional Tribal Burial Ground Board
Regular Meeting – October 5, 2013
LTBB Mina Mskiki Gumik Conference Room

Board Members Present: Wes Andrews, Chairperson; Kevin Willis, Vice Chairperson; Alice Yellowbank, Treasurer; Mary Gasco, Secretary, Nichole Biber

Absent: None

Speakers/Guests: Gwen Gasco

Meeting called to order 9:13 a.m.

Motion made by Chairperson Andrews and supported by Board member Biber to adopt the agenda as revised.

5 – YES 0 – No 0 – Absent 0 – Abstained

MOTION CARRIED

OLD BUSINESS

Green Burial Council Webinar update

- A. Presenter is on vacation until October 7, 2013 – no presentation this week.
- B. Reschedule for November Regular Board meeting
 - 1. Payment is due to the presenter prior to the presentation
- C. Nichole and Gwen will check on the technical requirements
 - 1. Internet access required – does the Board have permission to use the internet through the LTBB Health Park.
 - 2. Gwen will request permission to use her tribal government office laptop at meetings.
 - 3. Nichole will check with presenter on any other technical requirements needed
- D. Invite the Tribal Chairman/Vice Chairperson and the Tribal Council Legislative Leader to attend the next Regular Board meeting scheduled for October 26, 2013 to address concerns of the Board regarding access to tribal resources.

Rules and Regulations update

- A. The WOS statute and the corporate charter do not state that the burial rights are for Tribal members only.
 - 1. Board should propose an amendment of the statute/charter to include the wording.
 - 2. Should the burial also consider adopted children of tribal members?
- B. Care and Protection
 - 1. Provision regarding potted plants, plastic plants
 - a. Right to removal policy
 - b. No artificial flowers; exception crepe paper flowers and crowns allowable.
- C. Remove wording regarding the 'State of Michigan'.
- D. Invasive species
 - 1. The Board may need to hire someone with expertise in this area to advise the Board regarding indigenous species and allowable foliage that is not harmful to the indigenous plants.
 - 2. Board consider adopting a publication to cover indigenous and/or allowable plant species to be used in the cemetery.
- E. Pets clause (item B4)
 - 1. Board decides on a case by case basis.
 - 2. Appeal process – the Board has the ability to waive the requirements
 - a. Needs to be written into the regulations to allow the Board that ability.

3. Allow pets on the property to visit.
 - a. Owner is required to clean up after their pet.
- F. Removal/Transfer of remains to/from the Tribal cemetery
 1. Vault requirements
 - a. Most burials have been embalmed – how would this affect the green cemetery?
 - b. Once in a vault, always in a vault? How will the Board address this issue?
 2. Transfer issue under Interment section
 3. Clause for Appeal process or petition to address the Board and request.
 4. Repatriated remains
 - a. Allowed in the cemetery?
 5. Burial within 48 hours requirement
 - a. Per Rick Stone of Stone Funeral Home, that 48-hour requirement is regulated by the State, but it is not a law.
 - b. Embalming requirement
 - 1) Some beliefs do not embalm their relatives (Amish, Jewish)
 - 2) How do other groups deal with embalming?
- G. Plot size (C2)
 1. 12x12 lot would work with preliminary design by Board member Biber
 2. How will the lots be marked?
 - a. Concrete markers with metal rods in the middle of the marker
 - b. Hard plastic markers
 - c. Wood – would need to be replaced, maintained because wood would deteriorate.
 3. Spacing
- H. Sale of Plot
 1. The Board has the right to sell ‘the right’ to be buried in the grounds, but the sale of the land is not allowed.
 2. If an individual buys the right to be buried but does not use the right, it may be passed to the individual’s heirs.
- I. Fees
 1. The amount charged by other cemeteries
 - a. Cross Village church - \$1,000 for member, 3,000 for non-member
 - b. Greensky Hill church - \$100
 2. Fees for the right could include the maintenance of the ground rather than an annual fee.
 3. General upkeep of the grounds is the responsibility of the family to maintain.
 4. Distinguish that this fee is for the right to be buried within the Tribal cemetery and not for the ownership of the land.
- J. Firekeepers
 1. If ceremonial fires are performed at the gravesite, these fires may be monitored.
- K. Funeral Director must provide a Certificate of Death prior to burial.
- L. No specified area for cremated remains is needed.
 1. Cremated remains will be treated in the same fashion for burial as other remains.
- M. Using heavy equipment to dig the grave would cause heavy wear to the surrounding grounds.
 1. Employees, volunteers and family members are also invited to participate
- N. Elevated mounds
 1. Structure boxes – request submitted to the Board.
- O. Requests to the Board
 1. Any requests not stated in these regulations, must be presented to the Board for approval.

Land and Reservation Committee and Proposed Cemetery Sites

- A. Three tribal properties discussed
 1. Wah Wahs Noo Da Ke Tribal Village – Heynig Road, Harbor Springs
 - a. In trust, located on the northern area of the property, forested area

2. Mtigwaakiis, Murray Road, Petoskey
 - a. In trust, forested area
3. Parcel 54
 - a. Not in trust, not located in the 1855 reservation, dense vegetation
 - b. Flooding may not be an issue.

Community Meeting with Housing residents

- A. Schedule for December 6, 2013 from 4:00 p.m. - 6:00 p.m.
- B. Invite residents to give insight and solicit opinions
- C. Provide finger foods and light refreshments
 1. Get a quote from Cathy Davis to provide foods and refreshments for the event.
- D. Make a flyer to announce to housing residents
- E. Materials
 1. Maps of properties
 2. Literature about green cemeteries (check with GBC)
- F. Board members attend the Elder's luncheon on 12/5/13 to announce it at the luncheon. (Wes and Mary to present)

Bylaws

- A. Table Bylaws for review for the next meeting
- B. Put on agenda for the October 26, 2013.

Odawa Trails article

- A. Draft of November article sent to Board member emails.
- B. Send suggestions to Nichole; final draft due to the LTBB Communications on October 11th.

Consultant Contract for Gwen Gasco

- A. Back date the contract to include June and August meetings.
 1. Both meetings were approved for payment through a motion on August 3, 2013.
- B. Contract needs contract dates for FY2013 (June 29, 2013 through December 31, 2013) and a 'Not to Exceed' amount to allot contract amount in the Board's budget.
- C. Changes will be made so contract can be signed at the next regular board meeting.
- D. Office supplies included in the consultant fee/payment.

Board Logo discussion

- A. Board member Biber presented a draft of preliminary logo to the Board.
- B. Add colors
- C. Will present a clean copy for approval of the Board

NEW BUSINESS

Board Meeting dates

- A. November meeting date changed – Board will meet on November 23, 2013.
 1. Once approval/determination is given, the webinar may be scheduled for this meeting.
- B. December meeting date changed – Board will meet on December 7, 2013.

Request for funds for FY2014

- A. 2014 budget proposals due to Tribal Council on October 20, 2013
- B. Begin pulling projections for 2014
 1. Payroll, travel, surveying of land, office supplies, etc.
 2. Also future needs/services that Board may need

C. Carryover funds – will the Board be allowed to carryover funds? Chairman will present the question to Tribal Council.

Requirement of verbal personal reports to the Chairman

Motion made by Chairperson Andrews and supported by Secretary Gasco to adjourn the meeting.

YES – 5 0 – No 0 – Absent 0 – Abstained

Motion CARRIED

Meeting adjourned at 1:25 p.m.

These minutes have been approved by the Traditional Tribal Burial Ground Board on during the Regular Board Meeting held on November 23, 2013.

Date:

Mary Gasco, Board Secretary